

BREAD & PUPPET PRESS

THE BREAD AND PUPPET THEATER, FOUNDED

BY PETER SCHUMANN, GOT STARTED IN 1963. GRAPHIC IMAGES, CHISELED INTO MASONITE, PRINTED AND PAINTED ON CLOTH AND PAPER, WERE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE THEATER'S SHOWS. THE THEATER MOVED TO A FARM IN VERMONT'S NORTHEAST KINGDOM IN 1974, AND IN THE EARLY 1980's, ELKA SCHUMANN FOUNDED THE BREAD + PUPPET PRESS. B+P PRESS SOLD POSTERS, BANNERS, AND CHAP BOOKS IN THE MUSEUM BARN AND AT B+P EVENTS. BY THE MID NINETEEN-EIGHTIES, THE PRESS WAS PUTTING OUT AN ANNUAL CALENDAR & MAIL ORDER CATALOG. THE PRINTING & PAINTING OCCURRED HELTER-SKELTER, IN THE MUSEUM, CHICKEN COOPS, AND REHEARSAL SPACES. IN 2000, A PRINT SHOP WAS BUILT, AND THERE, UNDER LILA WINSTEAD'S ABLE MANAGEMENT, SHE AND LOCAL VOLUNTEERS NOW MAKE ALL THE HAND PRINTED AND PAINTED ITEMS FOR SALE, INCLUDING LETTERPRESS BROADSIDES & HANDMADE BOOKS. THE PRINT SHOP ALSO PRODUCES THE BANNERS, FLAGS, CURTAINS & COSTUMES, AS NEEDED, FOR SPECIFIC SHOWS. AT THE B+P PRESS, ELKA + LILA SELECT MATERIAL FROM PETER SCHUMANN'S HUGE OEUVRE, & DESIGN THE BOOKS, POSTERS & CARDS, WORKING WITH LOCAL OFFSET PRINTERS TO PRODUCE THE OTHER SALES ITEMS, USUALLY IN EDITIONS OF 1,000 OR FEWER. OUR EMPHASIS IS ON UTILITARIAN USES OF ART, FOR SUCH VITAL ACTIVITIES AS CELEBRATION, DECORATION, INFORMATION, ARGUMENTATION, RUMINATION —AND PUPPETRY!

